forces, extortion of money from public and transporters on national highways, and siphoning off development funds etc.

**Meeting of Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh**

828. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Home Secretaries of India and Bangladesh had met to discuss various common issues between two countries;

(b) whether Bangladesh Government has shot down India's proposal to have joint patrol along the border even as two countries have agreed to work together to contain smuggling of drugs, arms and human trafficking;

(c) whether this question was also discussed by the Indian BSF Director General with his counterpart of Bangladesh in Dhaka in May, 2004; and

(d) if so, to what extent India and Bangladesh have taken steps to check infiltration to India from Bangladesh and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGHUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A decision was taken during Director-General level meeting between India and Bangladesh to commence simultaneous coordinated patrolling by Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR). BSF had forwarded a draft in June 2003 to Bangladesh regarding the modalities to be adopted. The Government of Bangladesh has not yet responded in this regard.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Additional Battalions of BSF have been deployed along the Indo-Bangladesh border and construction work of border roads and border fencing is in progress to check the illegal infiltration. As result interception of Bangladeshi nationals by BSF has been steadily increasing.

**Regulations to check lottery activities**

829. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments in India are permitted to carry

on lottery activities and if so, whether there is any law in place to regulate their activities;

(b) whether there is any machinery to monitor the activities of the lottery-organising agencies so as to prevent the abuse of law and encouragement to gambling under the garb of lottery activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to amend the existing law in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) The State Governments may organize, conduct or promote lotteries only on conditions stipulated in Section 4 of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998. The said Act was enacted to regulate the lotteries.

(b) and (c) The State Governments monitor the activities of the lottery organizing agencies as per provisions of the Lotteries (Regulation) Act, 1998 and the relevant Rules framed by the respective State Governments.

(d) No, Sir.

**Atrocities on women**

830. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that atrocities on women are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details of cases reported during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to stop such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) and (b) As per statistics compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, the incidence of crimes committed against women in the country showed an increase in 2002 (147678 cases) in comparison to 2001 (143795 cases). However, in 2003, the incidence of crimes committed against women went down to 132720 cases as per provisional figures for the year 2003 available so far. The details of State/ UT-wise incidence of crimes committed against women during 2001-2003 are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 202, Annexure No. 2]